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Environment Department to Hold Open House on Windblown Dust in Roswell

(Santa Fe, NM) – In order to provide the public with information about windblown dust, the New Mexico Environment Department will host an Open House in Roswell on Monday, June 14, from 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the College Union Building, Room 110, Eastern New Mexico University, 48 University Boulevard.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has standards to regulate levels of dust, or particulate matter, in the air that can cause serious health problems. Monitoring of particulate matter concentrations in the air is done throughout New Mexico by the Environment Department. Strong winds in Chaves County during 2003 added dust to the air, resulting in the air quality in Roswell exceeding the federal health standard for particulate matter.

The Open House will provide information about health risks associated with windblown dust and steps people can take to lower levels of dust in the air that we all breathe. The Open House will also feature information about the plan that the Environment Department must complete to make sure violations of the federal standard caused by high winds do not result in more stringent air quality requirements.

For more information, please contact Andy Berger, Environmental Analyst with the Air Quality Bureau, at (505) 955-8034 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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